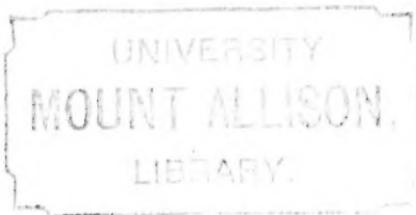


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WALLACE REVELATIONS.

The contents of this, first book of a series, were all intended for publication in the *Amherst Gazette*, but in consequence of the length of the communication, on page 4, it was not printed.

WALLACE, 7th Nov., 1870.

MR. EDITOR,—

I have at several times read statements, bestowing eulogium on the present class of school teachers throughout the province for their industry, capability and morality, this may perhaps be merited by the greater number, but there must be some exceptions, if I am to judge by an instance that lately came under my animadversion. Being a trustee and secretary of School Section, No. 8, it became part of my duty in that capacity to hire a Teacher for the present term. I had a few applications, amongst them James Tait, Jr., who offered his services as a second class Teacher. One of his nearest friends called on me and told me he was about agreeing with the trustees of the "North Shore School," but he would like to get a berth in the Wallace School-house and that they had seen Mr. O'Brien, one of the trustees and he was willing to engage him. I told his friend if that were the case I might perhaps hire him when I consulted the other trustee, Mr. Chambers, and that he might tell him I would give him a certain sum for one term, but if he wanted more he need not apply. James Tait, Jr., came to me the evening of the same day, and said he would accept my offer. I told him to call at Mr. O'Brien's on his way home, and see if what I had been told of his opinion was correct, and to come up the next evening to my house, when he would meet Mr. Chambers, and we would sign the agreement. He saw Mr. O'Brien, who agreed to my arrangement, and Mr. Chambers came to my house at the time appointed and waited a length of time, but Mr. Tait did not appear. The next morning I was informed on the street that Tait was not coming, as he had made a previous agreement with the trustees of the "North Shore" for \$20 less than my offer, and that they would not exonerate him, as he had made a binding bargain. I met him the next day, and asked him why he did not keep his promise, he said he had heard that some persons objected to him and that the trustees of the "North Shore" would not part with him.

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I was conversing with Mr. Nathaniel Stevens, a trustee of six mile road School Section, No. 9, who told me they were in want of a teacher and that they had been served the same trick by "Harvie Treen," who had engaged with them, and afterwards made another bargain at a higher rate for a school at River Philip. I am authorized by Mr. Stevens to use his name. If this state of things is to continue, there will be no reliance placed on any agreement made with Teachers, it will place Trustees in a dilemma, be injurious to the proverbial character of Teachers, and derogatory to the cause of Education.

In the army and navy, officers who are found derelict of duty or guilty of a dishonorable act, are brought to a court martial. Perhaps the Board of Education of our county may take the same view of this matter, and exhort all delinquents to do better in future.

THOMAS M. MORRIS,
Trustee and Secretary,
School Section, No. 8.

RIVER PHILIP, OXFORD, Nov., 13th 1870.

MR. EDITOR,—

"This world is full of changes," is a statement that has been repeated again and again for eighteen hundred years, and I do not know how much longer without ever being challenged. Were I a historian or a politician I might refer for proof of this saying to some of the events in past history, which have changed the face of the maps of Europe and Asia, buried dynasties in oblivion and washed despots to the surface; or I might refer to the present fearful struggle at which Europe and America are gazing with breathless interest. But being neither historian nor politician I will content myself with smaller matters,—infinitely smaller,—which were brought to my recollection when I read in your last issue a communication, signed "Thomas M. Morris, Trustee and Secretary, School Section, No. 8." I thought how strange it is, that a man who a few years ago, was supposed to aspire to legislative honors, now contents to meddle himself in small matters, of other people's business. How strange it is, that a man, who a few years ago for the love of brevity adopted the sobriquet of "Old Tom," now delights to sport the illustrious handle of Trustee and Secretary, of School Section, No. 8. How strange it is, that a man who, a few years ago, in advertising a handful of groceries, wrote the sublime doggerel,—

"Coffee, would please a very Turk
O'such a fine aroma,
T'would make a lady laugh and smirk,
And call her first boy Omar."

is now content to shear his pinions and descend to the region of such plain prose, as "hire a teacher," and "get a berth in a school house." How strange it is that a man who a short time ago, devoted his time to enlightening the public with stereotyped lectures on "Tobacco" and "Great Thumbs and Toes," to the infinite amusement of a lot of boys, seeking for the ridiculous and to the infinite disgust of ladies and gentlemen, seeking for entertainment and information. How strange it is that such a man could be the retailer of second hand stories, not just in the shape they might be.

Mr. Morris says he is authorized by Nathaniel Stevens,—reliable authority—to say that Harvie Treen engaged with the school on the six mile road, and afterwards made another bargain at a higher rate for a school at River Philip. Now I am authorized by Mr. Treen to say, that

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about eight days before he spoke to Mr. Stevens about the school on six mile road he was at River Philip and made arrangement for the school, as circumstances would permit. The trustees promising to let him know, in four days, if his offer would be accepted; from unavoidable circumstances the trustees did not write as promised, and after Mr. Treen had waited eight days he went to six mile road, and made arrangements for the school there, which was on Tuesday evening, about dark. He also mentioned the circumstance of having made an offer at Oxford and receiving no word as he expected, the same day during Mr. Treen's absence, to six mile road, a message came from Oxford, saying that the trustees had accepted his offer and made all arrangements for him to commence school. Next morning early Mr. Treen rode ten miles for the express purpose of notifying Mr. Stevens that he could not fulfil his engagement without very much disappointing the former school, although it was their own fault.

Now you will perceive, Mr. Editor, the bargain was made with Mr. Stevens late on Tuesday night and recalled Wednesday morning, and unless Mr. Stevens can show that he refused some offer in the meantime the disappointment was very trivial and also perforce of circumstance. About Mr. Tait I know nothing, but Mr. Thomas M. Morris, Trustee and School Secretary, of Section, No. 8, would do well in future not to meddle in other people's business, and remember the retribution which overtook him who amused himself by cutting off the thumbs and great toes of his fellows.

SALADIN.

NORTH SHORE, WALLACE, Nov, 19th, 1870.

MR. EDITOR:—

My attention has been called, by several friends, to an article which appeared in the *Amherst Gazette*, of 7th inst., over the signature of "Thomas M. Morris." I am sorry that at a period, at which age should teach wisdom, Mr. Morris whose life work is, or ought to be, in great part accomplished, should have thought himself called upon in the interests of education, to put forth an effort to blast the character of young men, just entering the struggle of life, and to whom a character is worth any amount of money. Lack of proper employment and an itch for newspaper writing, has led Mr. Morris to the commission of an act which, were his statements correct, could only be regarded as unjust, if not cruel. As his statements are not correct, and as he has seen fit to throw out insinuations against teachers, generally, I respectfully ask to be permitted to reply.

The real facts of the case, are these:—While in communication with the trustees of the North Shore School, who hesitated to come to an arrangement, in consequence of an offer made by another teacher. I received a message from Mr. Morris, offering me the Wallace School for a certain amount. The same evening I saw Mr. Morris and told him if I should take the school I would take the amount named. He in reply requested me, on my way home, to call upon one of the trustees, while he in the meantime would see the third; Mr. Morris added that "if I failed to secure the School I must not blame him." The trustee on whom I called promised to let me know the result of their deliberations on Saturday evening. On Friday morning the Secretary of the "North Shore Trustees" called and offered me the amount I had asked. As no definite arrangement had been made by the Wallace Trustees, who themselves seemed divided in sentiment, and as Mr. Morris had warned me, in case of failure, not blame him, and as I had learned that several rate-payers, of the section, strongly objected to the employment of a second-class Teacher, I at once accepted the offer from

the North Shore, and sent word to the Wallace trustee, to whom I had last spoken, to that effect. I am convinced that had a first-class Teacher presented himself in the mean time, Mr. Morris would not have hesitated five minutes about entering into an engagement. Mr. Morris, who seems determined to place me before the public, in the worst possible light, insinuates that I had went to the North Shore, not of my own accord, but, because the trustees of that section have so bound me that I could not escape. To meet this insinuation, I append a copy of a paper, signed by the trustees of the North Shore Section:—

“We, the undersigned, do hereby certify, that James Tait, had not at all agreed with us, at the ‘North Shore,’ before offering his services at Wallace, as he only offered himself for a certain sum, which we at first refuse, but afterwards granted.

(Signed)

ZABUD MACKAY,
WM. SMITH,
DUNCAN MCKINNON.

I have, now, Mr. Editor, through your kind permission, stated in self defence, the real facts of the case. As a young man I have not felt free to speak, in as strong terms, of Mr. Morris’ conduct, as under other circumstances. I intend to take no further notice of the matter.

JAMES TAIT, Jr.

WALLACE, 7th JAN'Y, 1871.

MR. EDITOR:—

I observe in your issue of 18th Nov., an article headed “Want of Courage,” stating “Sydney Smith,” in his work on moral philosophy, speaks in this wise, of what men lose for the want of a little brass, as it is termed:—A great deal of talent is lost to the world for want of a little courage. Every day sends to the grave a number of obscure men, who have only remained in obscurity because their timidity has prevented them from making a first effort, and who, if they could only have been induced to begin, would in all probability, have gone great lengths in the career of fame; the fact is, that in order to do anything in this world, worth doing, we must not stand shivering on the bank, thinking of the cold and danger, but jump in and scramble through as well as we can. It will not do to be perpetually calculating risks and adjusting the chances.

As we have not been very long acquainted, (and I intend hereafter to give a few biographical sketches) I think I may as well give you a short history of my origin, that may induce you to place confidence in my statements. “Quanvis sera tandem veniet,” is the motto on the Escutcheon of the Morris Family. They claim to be of noble Welsh descent. Captain Charles Morris, who is mentioned so frequently and honorably in the wars against the French and Indians, at the conquest and settlement of Nova Scotia, (see History, written by my old friend and school-fellow Beamish Salter Murdoch, Esq., and now given as prizes to deserving scholars in our public schools), afterwards Judge Morris and first Surveyor General of the province, was father of the Hon. Charles Morris, so long known as second Surveyor General, and his son John S. Morris was his successor. My father was cousin to the second Surveyor General and contemporaneous with him. My grand father, was Captain of a Transport and wrecked and lost at the first seige of Louisbourg. My father was known for fifty years as an honorable and accomplished West India merchant. My parents were

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West yans, their house was always open to the old and faithful Ministers, Revs. John and James Mann, William and John Black, James Knowlan, Sutcliffe, Alder, Crosecomb, Young, Bennett, Ritchey, and many others. They had four Sons, one died young, two lost at sea: six Daughters, all living. My father died 84, my mother 83, they were both interred at Camphill Cemetery, Halifax. My mother published a book Poems, it was favorably noticed by her friend, the Honorable Joseph Howe, at that time, proprietor and printer of the "Nova Scotian." We had, when at home, every Sunday after meeting, to repeat the Church of England Catechism, at that time used in families and schools. It taught us not to bear false witness against our neighbor, to bear no malice or hatred in our hearts and do unto all men as we would, they should do unto us.

I read a book some years since, entitled "Truth vs. Fiction;" it made a deep impression on my mind, perhaps you have read it, as Editors have to study a great deal and prove that which is good. I may give a convincing illustration of the aphorism, on my present communication; I also take the liberty to quote a few passages from the "Proverbs of Solomon," that may be applicable: "The wicked is snared by the transgression of his lips, but the just shall come out of trouble." "He that keepeth his mouth keepeth his life, but he that openeth wide his mouth, shall have destruction." "There is that maketh himself rich, yet hath nothing; there is that maketh himself poor, yet hath great riches." "Answer a fool according to his folly."

I noticed in your Gazette, of 18th Nov., a communication, dated "Oxford, 13th id.," signed "Saladin," hurling at my defenceless head, (on account of the fictitious signature), what the writer supposed withering sarcasm, in consequence of statements made in my address to you, on the 7th Nov., respecting what I had judged the improper proceedings of two School Teachers. I do not know why "Harvie Treen," had to hire such a magnanimous Champion, to defend his rights, he must be of age, and should speak for himself, and if I wronged him, demand restitution; but to employ such a *cowardly scribbler* did not exhibit the requisite qualifications of a *third* class Teacher; besides, I had nothing to say about the great personage who writes in such grandiloquent style. He must certainly be a graduate of the "Great Oxford University," and has got adrift in Nova Scotia, and now settled down in a manufacturing community, and makes "all cry and no wool." He despises my humble pretensions and scoffs at my literary achievements, derides my poetry and laughs at my prose, but I do not assume such great acquirements as his. He thinks he can pull the wool over my eyes and blind me, and that he dwells in "*Lucus iners nulli impenetrabilis astro*," but perhaps I may spy him and drive him from his sequestered abode, whether it be on the banks of the majestic Nile, or of the more humble river Philip. I did not expect to rival, the old English Poets, Shakespear, Milton, Dryden, Young, Harvey, Grey, and others, or the more modern, Byron, Moore, Sir Walter Scott, and Tennyson; or such prose as by the immortal Dickens. I suppose "Saladin" has the result of all *their* labors, in his capacious brain, and that so much learning makes him mad. He did not give me fair play, in quoting only one verse of my sublime idyl, describing my handful of groceries; there were two of more sublimity on *Tobacco* and *Medicinal Alcohol*. He says I inspired to legislative honors. How strange an invention or hallucination; I would not crave to be a Turn-coat, or man of artifice; it must be his own ambitious dream,—"Member for Oxford!" how sublime it sounds. He says I adopted for brevity, the sobriquet "Old Tom." How strange, I am advancing towards three score and ten,—I should be as wise as a serpent and harmless as a dove,—an Israelite indeed in whom there is no guile, *like himself*. He says, I delight to sport the illustrious handle of Trustee and Secretary, of School Section, No. 8; I cannot see anything degrading or dishon-

orable in that; I have acted in that capacity five years, was elected by the rate-payers and Trustees, as a competent person, to look after their business (*and other people's, viz. Teachers.*) I can refer to the Inspectors Messrs. George & Darragh, whether I have not faithfully and efficiently performed my duties, in Reports, Returns, &c. It is no disgrace to be gazetted in a good cause, but, *otherwise*, as a *Slanderer, &c., &c.* He says, I enlightened the public with stereotyped lectures, on "Tobacco and Great Thumbs and Toes," to the infinite amusement of a lot of boys, seeking for the ridiculous and the disgust of ladies and gentlemen, seeking for entertainment and information. There was present at the last mentioned Lecture, a person called James B. Woodland, of Oxford, an attentive and delighted hearer; after delivery of the lecture he commended it highly and said it ought to be printed and delivered in all parts of the County. How strange that "Saladin" and that person now differ so widely in opinion. At the delivery of the first Lecture, on the use of Tobacco, there were present two Ministers of the Gospel, who gave their approval, in remarks made by them, and one of them afterwards introduced the same subject in the pulpit and admonished his hearers of its baneful effects, in many ways. How strange! "Saladin" must smoke tobacco and opium, and like the Turks, must think sometimes that he is in *Paradise before he is ready*. There was no indecorous or unchaste language, made use of in either lecture, to disgust ladies or gentlemen, as stated by him. "Saladin" says, how strange it is that such a man could be the retailer of second hand stories, *not just in the shape they might be*; he also says, that Mr. Nathaniel Stevens, trustee of Six Mile Road School, is not *reliable* authority. "Saladin" is guilty of what he charges me with,—minding other people's business. He better first take the beam out of his own eye. As regards *his story* about Mr. Treen, I do not place any dependence in it, it is all subterfuge. To contravert the statements of both, I now give the copy of a letter addressed to me by all the Trustees of Six Mile Road Section No. 9; the original of which I can produce and prove authentic:—

SIX MILE ROAD, 22nd Nov., 1870.

MR. T. M. MORRIS, SIR.—We give the following statement, in regard to the hiring of Mr. Treen, to teach in this Section, according as our memory serves, which is as follows:—Mr. Treen came here on Saturday, the 22nd Oct., and said, that provided he would not get a letter from Oxford, when he returned to the Harbor, that he would hire here. He then came here on the following Tuesday, Mr. John Cook and Nath. Stevens being present, and agreed to hire for the Winter Term, for a certain sum, then mentioned. Nath. Stevens then accompanied him to John Robertson's, the other trustee, and there stated that he and Mr. Cook had agreed with Mr. Treen to teach, stating the bargain, with which John Robertson agreed. Mr. Treen then promised to be up on Tuesday, the first day of the month, to commence teaching. Nath. Stevens being at the Harbor on Wednesday following, where he met Mr. Treen, who told him that he had a letter from Oxford, for him to go there and teach, requesting Mr. Stevens to give him liberty to withdraw from agreement, on Six Mile Road, to which Mr. Stevens refused, telling him that he must go and see Mr. Cook, which he has not done, and we have not yet procured a teacher.

(Signed)

NATHANIEL STEVENS, } Trustees
JOHN COOK, } Section No. 9.
JOHN ROBERTSON. }

Now, Mr. Editor, these are gentlemen of respectability, of good repute and owning valuable properties, and are highly indignant at the statement made by "Saladin;" and I have *reliable authority* that Mr. Stevens is pre-

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paring a cowhide. Mrs. Stevens can prove that she asked Treen, what he would do, should he receive a letter from Oxford, he replied he would pay no attention to it, as the trustees did not keep their promise, but that he would certainly come and teach at the Six Mile Road School,—this is a stumper! I am preparing a parody on the celebrated song: "Woodman spare that tree," its title is "Woodland spare this stump," some of the words may be familiar to the ear of "Saladin." I shall whistle the tune when I see him. "Saladin" appears to possess an inventive genius, and is much inclined to be fabulous, and seems like the young Jewish Ruler, to lack one thing, the *essential element*, as a polite and illustrious man has often used these words to express his disapprobation of such as do not practice veracity. I think he may thank me for the inspiration of some words, on which he lays great stress and marked exception, and thinks they are improperly used, but I may hereafter show, where perhaps they may be applied with propriety.

"Saladin" appears to be proud of his pedigree and looks with contempt on any of low birth or diminutive stature, (as he has a lofty bearing.) I have heard of some persons of the same name and have taken pains to ascertain his antecedents. I find in my Biographical Dictionary, a *pretty decent* man. "Saladin" a famous Sultan of Egypt, greatly renowned as a Warrior and Legislator, died 1193, age 57; perhaps the present may be a descendant, as he sticks to eastern customs, smokes tobacco, uses opium and drinks sherbet. I cannot say whether he calls himself a christian; the Koran forbids the use of alcohol and he must be a temperate man. He has an intimate friend at Wallace, called *Pope Pius the meek*, of temperance proclivities, but has a great aversion, as well as his eastern friend, against any one who would prohibit the use of tobacco, and has grossly insulted some persons of less note than himself, when attempting to point out, at *free temperance meetings*, the inconsistency of its use, and their bad example by those whose motto is, *Love, Purity and Fidelity*. The Pope professes to be a christian, but does not presume to assert that he is infallible or immaculate, as he swaps horses and deals in cattle and lambs. He is chief Counsellor in temperance affairs and they are both friends of the (or ought to be) third class teacher, who hired the descendant of the great Sultan, to attack Old Tom, who some years since, kept with his handful of groceries, some choice liquors, in small bottles, for the use of the *afflicted*, amongst them some Old Tom (thence sprung the sobriquet.) The Doctor sent the *Temperance Folks* to buy it, because it was imperatively necessary for the benefit of their health, which was suffering from the use of *Tobacco*, causing loss of saliva *dyspepsia* and inflammation of bronchial tubes, &c., &c. It took a large quantity for this purpose; but the Pope issued a decree being the Clerk of License (himself) to inflict a fine of ten dollars, half of which was his perquisite; but I paid no attention to the orders of His Holiness and it ended in tobacco smoke, from the nauseous incense continually burning on his altars; he is an inveterate smoker as well as the *august* "Saladin." They may perhaps be both high officers of the Grand Lodge, with large salaries, which *with fines*, may prove an incentive (or moral suasion) towards Temperance. The cause of the hard feeling against me must be *jealousy*; they think if I persist, in my endeavors, that I will abolish the use of Tobacco, before they get the long talked of and intended *Prohibitory Liquor Law* passed, (this is enough to make a *horse laugh*.) The motto of the Pope is—do to me, as I do to others. As the evil will prevail and the use of tobacco encourages it, as much or more than anything else, (they join hand in hand) by causing unnatural and inordinate thirst,—and if they were to add to their pledge, that Tobacco should not be used by any, that styled themselves temperate, they might have better hopes. But without this addition the millennium (Rev. 20) must first arrive. Liquor and Tobacco are the Devils emissaries, and it will puzzle Bishop Colenso,

with his mathematics, Dr. Cummings, with his prolepsis, and, even, Mr. Lithgow with his polyglot, to state the time. Their righteousness and wisdom are as filthy rags and foolishness in the sight of the "Great I am."

Wesley says:

Blind unbelief, is sure to err, and scan His works in vain;
God is his own interpreter, and he will make it plain.

The heart of man is desperately wicked and deceitful above all things St. Paul says, be temperate in all things,—sin is the transgression of the law and whosoever keeps the whole law and yet offends in one point, he is guilty of all. The Great John Wesley said and the celebrated Doctor Beecher says, do not drink liquor or use tobacco, and why should ladies and gentlemen be disgusted when I repeat it; they will perhaps have more reason to cry about the *Great Eastern Question*, or, "Saladin's" pedigree. Some boys have better perceptions than grown up *boobies*. I have the manuscripts of both Lectures, which I can exhibit or repeat, if wished. One of my sons is now empowered, by the sessions, to sell Alcohol, *when used medicinally*; he is a temperance member according to Law and can sell to *Indians*, when their Squaws are sick; the profits are divided. Some years since I was President of the old Wallace Temperance Society, (appointed without taking a pledge) but afterwards left them, in disgust, as they would not add to their pledge, abstinence from the use of Tobacco. If the archives of the Templars where examined there might be found Annual Returns, made by me for a friend, who thought I could do them, as well as himself, and I was offered an appointment and salary if I would join, but objected because they encouraged the use of Tobacco.

How many merchants, in Halifax, have made and are making large fortunes, turning fish and provisions into Rum and Rum into Cash; and others importing liquors of all kinds and Tobacco and Cigars, and many engaging in the manufacture of Tobacco, and how many grocers make more money out of *Liquor and Tobacco* than any thing else. Their money gives them great influence and when will the Temperance folks command a majority of Temperance Legislators, to pass a Prohibitory Law? There is something wrong, also, about the License System,—there is as much Liquor and Tobacco imported, legally, and smuggled into the province, as ever. A statement might be given for the last fiscal year. The persons engaged in this traffic, of Liquor and Tobacco, belong to different denominations, *called Christians*,—Episcopalians, Presbyterians, Methodists, Baptists, Catholics, and Universalists, and are generally as charitable and philanthropic, (as others who profess temperance principles) giving liberally to erection of Churches, Insane, Blind, and Deaf and Dumb Asylums, Bible Societies, and all good Institutions; why should they not hope for salvation as well as others, who do as bad or worse?

I recollect that during the American War 1812-14 and after, my father owned three vessels, a fine clipper Barque 250 tons, called the "Five Sisters," a Brig 200 tons, the "Maria," built of live oak, a Schooner 150 tons, the "Valparaiso," a Baltimore Clipper; they were all prizes taken from the Americans. (Alabama Questions in those days were settled by the Bull Dogs, on the Wooden Walls of old England.) He employed them in the Jamaica trade, taking out fish, &c., and bringing back rum, sugar and molasses, Spanish doubloons and dollars. There were nests of pirates at Cape Antonio, they used to intercept the vessels, homeward bound. I recollect one, I think, the "Alligator," Captain Colson, was boarded, they struck the Captain at the yard arm, to make him reveal where his money was stowed, it was under the ballast, they left him, supposed dead, the crew afterwards relieved him and he recovered; the old man was a Scotchman, very *stiff-necked*, and always carried his head awry after that, and sailed out of Halifax a great many years subsequently. My father sent the

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"Valparaiso" to Jamaica, with a cargo of fish, &c., she discharged at Kingston, and took in a load of flour for Carthagenia, Spanish Main. The place had been blockaded by the Spaniards, but had capitulated before her arrival, and they lured her in. The inhabitants were in a state of starvation, and flour was worth one hundred dollars per barrel. I think the premium of insurance was 33 per cent. She would have made a little fortune—*Sic transit gloria mundi*. In 1834 my father and I owned the wharf property, now owned by G. H. Starr, Esq., and I suppose now worth \$40,000; at that time and previously I owned three vessels, in the West India and Newfoundland business (sealing, &c.) but during the year I was flooded, there was a monetary crisis, a great number of failures,—I had endorsed notes for persons (supposed friends) to amount of \$20,000, without any interest, to make them negotiable at bank, they failed and paid nothing and I became liable for the whole as well as my own affairs. It was *Cholera year*: 900 people died in Halifax, business was nearly suspended. The rich men left the city. All kinds of property was sacrificed and every body looked blue. Small dividends were made and great losses.

During the American War, the merchants of Halifax made money fast, by speculating in prize goods, vessels, &c., but afterwards the times became quite depressed, in consequence of restrictions in the navigation laws; our vessels could only go to certain ports, but after the alteration in the laws, by the enlightened policy of Mr. Huskisson, they were permitted to sail and trade to all parts of the world. Ship Building was carried on to a great extent, and some fine English vessels bought for the *West India business*, and times revived, and Nova Scotia became famed for her large mercantile marine, and the enterprize, and success, of her merchants, traders and fishermen.

I was in my father's office, two years; he taught me book-keeping, by different modes. I was after that book-keeper and cashier for five years, to the late John H. Braine, American commission merchant. He was a shrewd man of business and died rich. He was brought up in Boston. His father a merchant of New York, a Loyalist, and one of the first settlers of Shelburne, N. S. After the old Halifax Bank was established, and Bankers thought they could do as they pleased,—I recollect he sent me with \$20,000 in their notes to get doubloons, to remit to the United States for Flour; the Cashier hesitated about giving it, till he saw the Directors. Mr. B. went immediately to Lawyer Johnston, (now Judge) and got a letter from him, making the demand, and they soon shelled out the Gold. Mr. B. was his own Banker, and kept Notes till nearly due, when he would sometimes put them in the Bank for collection. During the time I was Clerk, I used to send adventures to the West Indies, in the old Brig "Nancy," Capt. Hunter, belonging to old Mr. Strachan, the "Condor," Capt. Vaux, and the "Michael Wallace," Capt. Glawson, belonging to old Mr. Brown, (who like Stephen Girard's Cooper, died a rich man.) I recollect when I was getting my remittances, at his office, he used to say: "Tom always trade on your own Capital," the Bank (only one then) will ruin all who are not acquainted with them. He was from Scotland and was well acquainted with the Scotch method.

What has become of the report of the Committee, on the affairs of the Bank of Nova Scotia. I recollect when Mr. Forman was a respectable and intelligent merchant at the head of the long wharf, he was an expert Book-keeper, but speculated too largely with other people's means. I did business, seven years in Halifax, saved \$2,000 while I was clerk, and shipped half a cargo with a friend and went to Demerary as super-cargo, returned in ten weeks and made for my share and commissions \$1,000 and then commenced business. I have been living in the country about thirty years, had six boys and six girls; two daughters and one son dead; nine living. I do not make this statement

Mr. Editor to aggrandise myself but merely to let the "Great Saladin" know that he was not acquainted with my early history, my private affairs are of very little consequence to any one, the boys may laugh and Saladin's ladies and gentlemen grin, but I shall be satisfied (*veritas prevelabit.*)

My maternal grandfather was born in Dublin on St. Patrick's day. Came out to New York when young did business there was a loyalist, and was one of the first settlers in Shelburne N. S. He laid out 4,000 Guineas there, and after business declined moved to Halifax Thomas Braine Sr. also moved to Halifax and was buried at Camp Hill Cemetery, Thomas Mahan my Grandfather was buried in the site where the new Grafton Street, Wesleyan Chapel now stands, the two families were connected by marriage, (see prize offered by Kings College for best essay on first settlement of Shelburne with biographical sketches.)

I was awake some nights since in my berth, thinking of other "Saladins," the name seemed familiar to my ear and I recollect that many years since, a ship called "Saladin" was wrecked on the south shore of the province and the crew taken up on suspicion. She had a cargo of copper ore and bars of silver, and was bound from Valparaiso to London, it was found on trial of the crew, that a strange captain and his son had shipped as passengers at the former port, and on the passage had incited part of the crew to murder the captain of the ship and I think seven of the crew, they kept the strange captain, as pilot, he steered for Nova Scotia, and was wrecked in a gale, before they reached the shore the mutineers murdered him and his son, (as dead men tell no tales,) Three were hung and one turned Queen's evidence and escaped a berth on the gallows. I thought he might still be in disguise wandering about the province and the name of "Saladin" still applied to him. A slanderer is as bad as a murderer.

I trust my man is of eastern origin, and that he is well to do in the world. Perhaps he has been in the grocery business and had an armful but may have dwindled down to a handful, as family necessities sometimes cause such things, he may have been a Pedagogue, or a local preacher, or a temperance lecturer, these stereotyped temperance lectures are sometimes very tedious and monotonous and I think might be made more lively by an interspersion of tobacco. The village of Oxford is growing fast as a manufacturing settlement. It has a woollen Mill, in which no doubt the eastern man owns stock and perhaps has subscribed largely to Mr. Cameron's stock list of the Woodware Company, and I understand there is a talk of an establishment for Extract of Hemlock Bark on a large scale (in which he may invest heavily.) It is said to be *so profitable* by the originators. It will require an immense quantity of Bark and may induce people to cut down all their Woodland which will be a great loss to the inhabitants, as it keeps them quite amused in winter, and is profitable in many ways, the Wood may be used in the factory, but it will dislodge any straggler in the land who may have a berth there, and is found to be a *Squatter*. The great man may turn out only a *Bushwhacker* after all.

"Saladin" brays loudly, if I could get hold of his ears, I might discover to which species he belongs, and if I could obtain his Jawbone after it is quiet, I might as Sampson did, slay all my enemies therewith. Mayhap the learned Egyptian intends to study *Theology* to add to his other *temperate* and varied accomplishments, and may prefer Acadia College to "Oxford University." It would recommend a lesson for his consideration, to get a knowledge of the roots of the word, *En arche en o'logos kai o'logos en pros ton theon kai theos en o'logos* and an illustration that may perhaps suit his capacity.

In a well ordered Sabbath School, there will be the same lesson for the whole school; and but one lesson at a time. Experience proves this the better way. Yet there are schools, where every class is on "its own hook" and the brief hour is spent in a miscellaneous study of

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different subjects, without any show of unity or system. No wonder that the story is told whether true or not, of a boy coming from such a class, who on being asked at home what he had learned for that day, answered,—And the whale spake unto Moses in the bulrushes saying, almost thou persuadest me to be a christian; and Moses answered and said unto the whale "Thou art the man." Now I have no objection to leave the decision of our literary merits, to the venerable President of "Acadia" perhaps he may recollect when he was a student at King's College, Windsor, Rev. Dr. Porter, President. I was a pupil at the "College Academy," Rev. Mr. King, Sen., Principal. I shall never forget the kindness and attention paid to me, by that reverend old gentleman, and accomplished "Oxford Scholar." He was loved and respected by all his scholars and was another Roger Aschem, in teaching Latin. Should the President of "Acadia" forget me, he may recollect when Pete and Steve Delaney turned up the College Bell and filled it with hot lead, to keep its tongue quiet, (pity "Saladin" was not served so) or when the Students had a hot Supper, in one of their rooms, (when they should have been at their studies) and hearing the approach of the President, going his rounds, threw *Supper and Service*, out of the back window, into the College yard. He may have many other pleasing reminiscences of "Alma Mater." William Wright afterwards Judge Wright of St. John N. B., now dead, and fat Bob Hazen, now a prominent lawyer of St. John, N. B., were pupils at the Windsor Academy. They then called me *Little Tom*,

Theodore, of Abyssinia, claimed to be descended from the Queen of Sheba; as Egypt and that Country are not far apart, some of the descendants of the Eastern Philosopher may have migrated through Nubia, and intermarriages may have occurred, and the present doubtful "Saladin" may be related to that illustrious Lady of Color, of whom as wise a man as he became enamoured. Perhaps some of his relations where amongst the 3000 Mamalukes said to have been shot in cold blood and some sick prisoners poisoned in hospital, by Napoleon I. (Lockhart's History.) Those Eastern Rulers are generally famed for having a Seraglio or Harem and a number of wives and other ladies. The present Ruler has 800 wives,—*o'mirable dictu!*—what a lot of groceries they would require;—an armful would not go far. I hope "Saladin's" favorite will not get mad, and bite off her great thumbs, as they have a fashion of dyeing their eyebrows and finger nails, with henna,—it might have a baneful effect—or that he may not share the fate of Adoni Bezek, Judges 1st and 6th . . . If this great man should die of *hysterics or asterisks*, his remains may probably be transported to his ancestral halls, and deposited in the Catacombs or Pyramids of Egypt, near his illustrious progenitor. He may there be a mummy or a dummy, and it may be said of him that he openeth not his mouth. I would advise him to retire to his closet, read the Proverbs of Solomon, practise ablation, especially the mouth after chewing and smoking tobacco, and he may become a cleaner, more humble, wiser, and better man.

The German Soldiers have each a bottle of wine, per day, and each bottle contains two ounces of alcohol. The Surgeons say the ration is a valuable one to the men,—the alcohol sustaining and the vegetable matter nourishing exhausted nature. Clearly the Prussian Scientists do not believe in the virtues of total abstinence. The most celebrated German Physicians have asserted that twenty thousand persons, of their nation, die annually, by the excessive use of tobacco.

The quantity of manufactured Tobacco, imported into the United Kingdom, last year, amounted to 52,588,590 lbs. The analysis shows that 1,456,623 lbs. came from the Hause Towns, 6,350,957 lbs. from Holland, 312,317 lbs. from Greece, 1,752,587 lbs. from Turkey proper, 1,334,718 lbs. Philippine Islands, 594,339 lbs. from Japan, 242,976 lbs. from Cuba, 1,875,765 lbs. from New Granada, 37,046,032 lbs. from the United States,

and 1,645,276 lbs. from other Countries; this, including the duty, 75 cts. per lb., amounts to the enormous sum \$39,441,442, spent for a useless and vicious habit, and the greater part, by persons professing to be Puritans. It is said that Liquor and Tobacco costs the people, of the United States, \$800,000,000.

The British Anti Tobacco Society offered a premium of £50 for the best Essay on the "History and Properties of Tobacco, and its Physical action on the Human Body," also, a Prize of £50 for the best Essay on the "Moral, Social and Economical results of the use of Tobacco." This Society publishes a Monthly Magazine, which contains a good deal of valuable information, respecting the properties and use of an exceedingly injurious article. The conduct of the temperance folks (so called) reminds one, of what I always thought, the unjust and unprovoked war, waged by the English against the Chinese, some years ago, to compel them to open their Ports, for the admission of *opium*, which was prohibited by the Emperor, as he found the use of it so destructive, to the lives of his people, and he wished them to increase and multiply, (having only 400,000,000) that he might supply the United States with Slaves or cheaper labor than *Negroes*, to whom they gave their freedom, at the cost of the lives of a million and half of *white freemen*, and thousands of millions of dollars worth of property, and heavy war taxes, they are now paying. The *Negroes* are useless and are hardly recognized by the Northeners, and they now want to stop the importation of the *Celestials*, as they are reducing, so much, the labor and employment of their own people. The pretext of the English was to open the Chinese ports for trade, especially opium, by which their East India possessions became rich; and the introduction of the Bible and Missionaries, to convert the *Heathen*. The temperance folks wage war against *Alcohol*, and encourage other vices just as destructive, to health and morality. The Chinese or *Heathens* are now persecuted and imposed on, by certain Missionaries and in their turn (it is said) intend to expel all *Barbarians*, within their Country, and destroy all outside, by poisoning their great export, *Tea*, which is the principal beverage of all other nations. This proves that "the heart of man is desperately wicked," and that most of men are doing evil continually, that good may come. If this should prove no joke, (the Chinese have no Coinage, except the copper *token* or *cast*, which is not the tenth of a penny; and all, but the most trifling, payments are made either in foreign money or by the weight of silver. It is likely they will keep a bright look out for Spanish dollars and British sovereigns) it will benefit all Countries, producing coffee, cocoa, chickery, or peas, as there must be some substitute for tea. What will the old ladies do? Milk will be in great demand; butter and cheese must rise; and cows will bring high prices. The Yankees had better annex Cuba, Porto Rico and St. Domingo, and raise coffee and cocoa, and get Brazil, if they can; they will then have employment for all their *free Negroes*.

Mr. Editor, I had hardly finished the few remarks, I made in the foregoing narrative, in regard to the Teacher Harvie Treen, when out comes Mr. James Tait, Jr., with another charge, not of minding other people's business, but of meddling too much with *his business*; and I thought I might as well try and kill two birds with one stone. I must allow that I greatly admire the manliness of Mr. Tait, Jr., in coming out over his own name, of which he seems not to be ashamed, and giving his statement of the affair, in dispute. If Mr. Tait wrote the letter himself and can prove it is accurate, in all its details; I think he proves to be a good *second class* Teacher, a good compositor and possessed of self-reliance, which is a great requisite, and that he requires no further examination for the *first class*; but I cannot, I am sorry to say, accord with all he says. He seems pretty courteous and tells a plausible story, but I have many objections to it; he is very considerate; would not wound my feelings; regrets my want of proper em-

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ployment; and, laments my lack of wisdom, at my *advanced age*, but, notwithstanding all this, I have heard some trite sayings, during my experience, that "you cannot catch an old bird with chaff" and that "young folks think old folks fools, but old folks know young ones sometimes to be fools." I admit this is not on a par with Saladin's introductory address, but I cannot help it. I have a plain unvarnished tale to relate, and will return to Mr. Tait, Jr. His father is principal actor, in the first scene. He went to Mr. O'Brien, trustee of School Section, No. 8, (he owns a big Ship) and told him that his son was thinking of taking the North Shore School, but that he would like to get him into the Wallace School, as a Teacher, and wished to know if he would agree, if *Mr. Morris would*. Mr. O'Brien told him if I thought he would answer, he was willing. He then came and asked me if I was willing, if Mr. O'Brien was. I said I would be inclined to do what I could for his son, on account of his own long acquaintance, with me, and that if Mr. O'Brien was willing I would be, and said nothing about Mr. Chambers, the other Trustee, (a gentleman of property and good repute and proverbial as a first-rate Blacksmith, at any kind of work, and a Trustee of School Section, No. 8.) We live two miles apart. I told him I would venture to offer his son (having Mr. Chambers' permission to do, on all occasions, as I thought best and he would rely on my judgment and give his approval) \$105 for one term, which with provincial allowance, \$45, would be \$150, if he was willing to take that, he might apply, and come up and see me, which he did, and accepted my offer. Now, he says I sent a message to North Shore to engage him, to teach; but see how shrewdly his father had got the consent of *two* Trustees, which was binding and sufficient, and we could not, in honor, engage another after that. We wanted a first class teacher, if possible, but there were no applications, and time was fast passing away, in the new term. You can refer to my first communication, and find that I sent for Mr. Chambers, to tell him to come down, to sign the agreement, and meet Mr. Tait, (the person who took the message can prove this.) This does not show that any one of the Trustees dissented from my agreement; but, that the bargain was binding, when Mr. O'Brien agreed to it. A lady at Mr. O'Brien's heard the agreement, and Tait promised to come and teach the Wallace School. I now give copy of a letter, from my coadjutors, to prove what I stated, in my letter, of 7th Nov., in regard to the agreement with James Tait, Jr.:—

WALLACE, 28th DEC., 1870.

MR. T. M. MORRIS,

SIR,—We notice in the *Amherst Gazette*, a letter, dated 19th Nov., signed James Tait, Jr., denying the statement made by you, in same paper, and dated 7th Nov., in reference to the agreement, made by him to teach in Wallace School, Section No. 8. We think it our duty, in your justification, to aver that the statements given by you were strictly correct. There was not, as he states, any division of sentiment, amongst us; he came, as you requested, to Mr. O'Brien, who agreed to your arrangement, and the sum offered, and made a conclusive bargain to teach in our School,—a lady being present, as witness. Mr. Chambers also received the message, delivered to him by a lady, that you had engaged James Tait, Jr., to teach for a certain amount, and wished him to come to your house, on the same evening, that the Trustees might sign the agreement. He attended at the hour appointed and waited a length of time, but James Tait, Jr., did not appear.

Yours truly,

(Signed)

JOSEPH R. O'BRIEN JOHN CHAMBERS } Trustees Sec. 8.

Mr. Tait, Jr., states that I said "it would not be my fault if he did not get the School;"—Did that not show that I was his friend and wished him success? Then why should he say, I wanted to injure his character and blast his prospects. Who was the cause?—himself! I felt annoyed to think, that I was trying to serve him and to be tricked as I was by his father. Mr. Tait, Jr., in conclusion, says he will take no more notice of the affair;—but, I shall. Am I to be a *scape goat*, on both occasions, and, for what?—because I am not wise enough at my age! As regards the certificate, of the Trustees, of the North Shore School, there is what, I believe, D. C. Fraser, the Lawyer, would call a *Qui^{et}ble*. There was no agreement; it was not in writing. One of the Conclave told me this, that is the meaning of no agreement being made in either case; but will not a sincere and honest man do, when in his power, what he promises, verbally, and as quickly, as if he had given his bond? This is a poor subterfuge. James Tait, Jr., says, I would have hired a first class Teacher, *had one offered*. I deny it. He told an acquaintance of mine, of his *first agreement*, at North Shore, and bragged that he was going to teach one of the Trustees, of that School, "Navigation;" after that he agreed with us, and when they heard it, they offered him what was equivalent, computing the cheaper rate of board in that place.

The Tait's are a very inventive family, especially the Senior. I have frequently written (*gratis*) communications for him, to the "Patent Office," when sending his models of Ships' blocks, tackles, &c., but, there was generally some *screw loose*. I saw him lately at work at some new machinery, to find out longitude or perpetual motion, in the furniture factory of Mr. Henry Smith. Whoever wants good and cheap furniture better look in. He uses dispatch, especially in *wheelbarrows*; but is averse to advertising, as he is very cautious, and is afraid of the opposition of Mr. Cameron's new factory, or the expected Reciprocity Treaty, and *free trade* with the United States. Mr. Tait, Sen., is a good Quarryman and is engaged in the Boston Quarry; a *Geologist*, and like his great prototype, Hugh Miller, is continually searching for *foot-prints of the Creator*, to ascertain, correctly, the age of the world. I trust he may not share the same fate as Midshipman Easy's father, and hope that the junior when he arrives at that age, when experience teaches wisdom, may not exhibit more folly than he does at the present, or as he thinks, I have manifested.

I had a letter not long since from my old friend and school-fellow, (Halifax Grammar School) the Hon. Martin I. Wilkins. He gave me instructions how to act with some refractory Magistrates and uncontrollable Constables, with whom I came in contact, while performing my duties, as Trustee and Secretary, of Section No. 8; and as he is at the head of the Government and member of the Council of Public Instruction, he may perhaps take this matter in view. The Trustees of Sections 8 and 9 are very desirous that an investigation should take place, by the Board of Commissioners, for the County, the Superintendent of Education or the School Inspector.

I took a trip lately to Oxford, River Philip, in order to get acquainted with the resources and manufacturing capabilities of that part of the Country; and thought I might perhaps fall in with the "Great Saladin," and see something of Eastern magnificence, in his dwelling, furniture, chariots, and horses, liveries, &c., but he had absconded. I saw a *closed shop*, that had been occupied by some *grocer*; and some preparation making for the *Woodware Factory*. I visited the Woollen Factory, which is well worth inspection. The manufactures appear to be of excellent quality and at cheap prices. I believe it is a flourishing establishment. I think a Cotton Factory should be got up next. There is a great and growing demand for white and grey Cottons, Prints, Warps, &c.; and plenty of water power; and the crude material could be obtained easily and cheaply. I did not hear a *bark* about

the "Hemlock Extract Company," nor see the Wood-land, they intend to destroy. Mr. Oxley, the superintendent of the woollen mills, is very courteous to strangers and takes pleasure in explaining the uses of the beautiful machinery and exhibiting his wares. He keeps a neat and comfortable Temperance Hotel, opposite to the Manufactory; and visitors will receive every attention from the kind and obliging host and hostess.

There is a neat little Episcopal Church erected at Clifton, on the railroad line, near the large stone bridge, now being built, by the contractors, over River Philip; it is a pretty situation; and most likely there will soon be an extensive Village there. It is midway between Oxford and what is called the corner. I believe nearly all denominations have contributed towards building the Church. The Rev. Mr. Ellis holds service in the Church, fortnightly, and his ministrations are highly appreciated. There is a Bible and Singing Class. The Church has a number of symbolical adornments; they are not viewed very favorably by such as are not willing, "as the old Dutchman was to carry his cross on his back." There is a Hotel at Clifton, kept by Mr. Thomas Patton, where travellers can be very agreeably entertained. I travelled as far as Wyndam; it was Sunday afternoon and service was held in the Schoolhouse. I enjoyed the hospitality of an old acquaintance, John Bragg, Esq.; he told me he had seen my communication, in the Amherst Gazette, respecting the *two Teachers*, and believed it to be all true, as he new that such tricks were practised by some Teachers. As he is one of the School Commissioners, he may perhaps bring it to the notice of the Board.

There is also a very comfortable Hotel, kept at the corner, by Mr. Black, it is much resorted to by the Railway Officials and offords good entertainment. Whilst there, I heard one of the Contractors (not Simpson) giving a lesson on Natural Philosophy and monetary affairs; he was explaining how the top was kept spinning. I thought the *Cash* came from Ottawa, by "centrifugal force," and when it got to Londonderry, it was *kept* by "centripetal force." If Clifton should become a railway station or a depot, it will be a suitable place for an extensive Hotel; it will be about 45 miles from Truro and 105 from Halifax and 20 from Amherst. River Philip is famed as a good river for salmon and trout fishing; and the timber lands for partridge shooting. The Waltons and Nimrods, of Halifax, and officers of Army and Navy, can be conveyed there in four hours, by rail; and a few days could be spent there very pleasantly. It would also be a pleasant trip for tourists and indisposed ladies and children, during the summer season. The Country, in the vicinity, abounds with agricultural productions, of every description, at cheap rates; and it will be a good field for purchasers of cattle, horses and stock of all kinds. There are some beautiful drives and scenery through the adjacent settlements. I also enjoyed the hospitality of Mr. Harding Carter, of Clifton, who contributed generously towards the Church; and of old Mr. Winsby, on River Philip Bridge Road; and the very agreeable and kind female members of his family. The old gentleman is a firm supporter of his church and is very positive in his politics. I enjoyed the fine old fashioned open fireplaces, with blazing fires of hardwood. Much more healthily than the abominable "Yankee Cooking Stove," destroying oxygen, producing carbonic acid gas, consumption, Doctors' bills, and death.

There was a lecture delivered, lately, in Halifax, by a reverend gentleman, on "the one idea." The purport was to show we ought always to have some particular aim or worthy object in view. Louis Napoleon had *one* idea of "getting to Berlin," but it was a mistaken one. King William was thinking of being Emperor of United Germany; he may hit the right nail on the head, but he had a Bismark or Mark Twain to aid him. When I commenced, my idea was to find out "Saladin;" perhaps I have "hit the

mark," but it lead to a great many other ideas, perhaps some very foolish ones. I was thinking, Mr. Editor, I would propose a question for your free discussing club; and I should like to hear it discussed by your literati. It might be put thus,—"Which imparts the greater vigor to the power of memory or Association of ideas,—Reading or observation by Travel?" I heard an excellent lecture delivred many years ago, on "Association of Ideas," by the Rev. John Martin, at his Church, in Halifax, opposite S. E. corner of St. Paul's Church. The basement of Mr. Martin's Church, was occupied as a restaurant and cook shop, for sale of *spirit of wine*, cigars and hot suppers; it was kept by Othello & Desdemona Pollard, two Negro slaves, brought, I think, by Admiral Warren, from Chesapeake Bay. I recollect, as well as if it was yesterday, when the "Shannon," Captain Broke, brought into Halifax, as prize, the American Frigate "Chesapeake," Capt. Lawrence, dead. He was buried in Halifax, with all honors due to a brave man and afterwards removed to Boston. The action took place off Boston harbor, 1st June, 1813, and only lasted fifteen minutes; also, when the "Little Belt," a small Sloop of War, was chased by the large American Frigate Constitution. They exchanged broadsides. The "Little Belt" was hauled into the dockyard and repaired at Halifax.

"Socrates Docuit Zenephontem et Platonem," this respectable old Schoolmaster, long before "Saladin" was one, used to teach the boys and write for the "Athens Gazette." He had a Wife named Xan, he used to call her Thippe, and she used to tip the dish (not eau de cologne) over him. My Wife does not take any interest in my epistolary communication, to the "Amherst Gazette;" she thinks it does not pay, as well as the West India trade, in which she is more interested, having some of her friends deeply engaged in it; but, Mr. Editor, all things must come to an end. As Mr. Tait thinks I have not proper employment, perhaps you might give me a berth, as *Sub-Editor*, if I find my grub, pens, ink, and paper. He says, I have an itch for Newspaper writing "*Cacoethes Scribendi*"; if he should come in contact with me and catch it, I will endeavor to give him some more ointment that may cure him. I should like him and Harvie Huestis to come and settle the fees, due Section No. 8, for tuition, whilst preparing for teaching, the rate-payers think I should pay them, but I must consult the Attorney General first.

Now, Mr. Editor, you may perhaps think I am spinning too long a yarn and may not feel inclined to publish this episode. It may not be interesting to the public, generally, and Saladin, Harvey Treen and James Tait, Jr., may not like the style. I hope to have credit for originality and trust it will be leniently criticised. I have endeavored in all my statements to tell "the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth." I have tried the sublime for the edification of *Saladin* and the ridiculous for Messrs. Treen and Tait, who may think I have arrived at "that age, when experience teacheth wisdom," but there are some *grave principles* involved in these discussions, in which the public should be interested,—the promotion of *education*, the suppression of *vice*, the practice of *morality, individual rights, and the commonweal*. The boys may laugh and the learned turn up their noses, but that will not alter the case. The folks in the country want amusement, during winter nights, when sitting round their comfortable hearths, reading the Amherst Gazette, and enjoying the fruits of their summer's labor, *earned by the sweat of their brow*; and they may as well laugh at me as *Saladin*; I do not care much about the *big bugs*. I am not afraid or ashamed to assert my rights, the translation of my motto, may account for my delay,—"*Memo mortalium omnibus horis sapit*," as we used to say at the old "Halifax Grammar School." I could tell a story about the old Schools of Halifax, and the boys who attended and their fortunes, and the present Schools of Wallace; also, something about the *Census of 1861*, as I had a finger in the pie, not the apple pie and cheese of

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the *Commissioners*, but the pie of the *Printer*, Mr. McDonald. I should like, Mr. Editor, to have your aid in solving some of the mystery, attached to these *School* and *Temperance affairs*. Old Richard, the Philadelphia *Printer* and great *Philosopher*, who drew lightning from the clouds, said "time is money," and I suppose paper, type, ink, and labor, are money to you, and should not be wasted; but such valuable and interesting communications may increase or diminish the demand for your *Gazette*. The *Printers' Devils* cry out sometimes for Cash and cannot get it, their masters cannot get it from subscribers; it would be a shame not to pay the *Printer*, especially of the *Amherst Gazette*. I recollect when the Honorable Joseph Howe was a *Printer's Devil*, of which he must still be proud, and a *smart Devil* he must have been, or he would not be in the position he now occupies. He imparted *electrical shocks*, in his youth, to stubborn *Magistrates*, and in latter days as a *Philosopher*, to repealers and annexationists.

In conclusion, Mr. Editor, I think in the words of the "Great Saladin," that *his* *Dynasty* has passed away and washed to the surface a *Usurper* and *Despot*.

THOMAS M. MORRIS,

*One of the boys of the "Halifax Grammar School," 1811.
Trustee & Sec. of "Wallace School Sec., No. 8," 1871.*

N. B.—Since the foregoing was written, in reference to James Tait, Jr., I have ascertained that he was not entitled to the credit of composing the letter, addressed to the Editor of *Amherst Gazette*, dated 19th Nov., 1870, and signed by him,—but that he was merely amanuensis and that it was compiled and concocted by a *Wesleyan Clergyman*, who leveled imaginary sarcastic strictures at me on account of my hoary cranium; and lack of wisdom in making, what he was persuaded, were unfounded and indiscreet charges, against one of the lambs of his *spotless flock*. Mr. Tait, Jr., was afterwards examined by the "Board of Education," and expected to obtain a first class ticket, but did not succeed in getting even a second class; and I have the authority of Mr. Duncan McKinnon, a Trustee of the North Shore School, who signed the certificate, embodied in Mr. Tait's letter, to say that he absconded without paying his *board-bill*, whilst teaching at that place; and that he was found very incompetent and negligent, in the performance of his requisite duties.

T. M. M.

WALLACE, 1st JUNE, 1871.

MR. EDITOR:—

“A little learning is a dangerous thing
Drink deep or taste not the Pierian spring.”
“Too much learning, hath made thee mad.”

General readers are aware of the origin of these quotations. The popular idea now is that a superior education is easily obtained, and that it is in the power of high and low, rich and poor to acquire so enviable a blessing, but from late experience and observation I have some reason to doubt this. It may perhaps be said, I do not speak the words of truth and soberness,—but I will venture an opinion—it seems to me that there is a screw loose somewhere and that the machinery wants examination and oiling, I speak in reference to the common or free schools, as they are called, of our country. Some priggish pedagogues take upon themselves the task of informing the minds of the rising generation, soon the task becomes a profession, it is something to live by and grow rich upon, the idea is to increase the number of professors by enlarging the sphere of their labor, these schoolmasters get together in conventions and talk things over, they discover year after year that new branches of study should be introduced into schools supported by public money, the plea is that the public should afford the poor man's child as good an education as the rich man's money will procure, under this pretence our schools have been perverted from their original purpose, into mere preparatory institutions for a collegiate course of study, they teach a smattering of everything taught in Colleges, except Latin and Greek, but nothing thoroughly, the number of studies crowded into the mind, forbids at an early age, thoroughness in every thing—it is all superficial—the forcing process may drive a great many rules into a child's mind, but it never can compel the comprehension of a principle. We are dazzled at examination day, by the variety of studies in which pupils are trained to show off, and perhaps go away thinking that our schools are wonderful institutions, but in nine cases out of ten, this is all cramming. The mind is made for a time to hold certain rules and formulas, which are the signs of learning but there is no time, to make the pupil comprehend the principles upon which these rules and formulas are based, consequently, when the memory relaxed or diverted into new labors lets go of its arbitrary process, the entire results of study are gone. I would not place too narrow a limit to the course of study to be pursued in public schools. Reading, spelling, writing, and arithmetic are essential—history, geography, physiology, and a comprehensive study of the English language should be added, whatever will be useful in all the ordinary walks of life and an assistance in customary pursuits, should as a basis and for a rule, be taught in schools. After that, education should be special. The boy or girl should be taught something that

will enable them to obtain a livelihood. Nothing is more pitiful than a man of varied, and perhaps brilliant attainments, who has mastered nothing in particular. Yet our common schools, if followed through their course, leave the pupil in this position. They fit a lad for nothing, yet they exhaust a period of his life, which should be devoed to fitting him for something. The boy who acquires, what in old times, we termed a good common school education and then learns a trade or business has ten chances of success to one who learns all that is taught, in the highest of our public schools, and learns nothing else. For the few who continue in school and prepare for college or a profession, the curriculum for our public schools is probably a good preparation. The fault we find with our public school system is this: It occupies the time that should be devoted to special education for life; it sends too many educated incompetents out upon the world. Every day we meet men hunting for something to do. Ask them what they can do, and their reply is everything; ask them what they can do better than anything else, and there reply is nothing. Consequently they are fit for nothing. Every industry, trade, or profession is crowded with men, fitted for their business. A man generally educated, be he ever so capable naturally, has no show in such a contest. He knows more than the book-keeper or blacksmith, but either of them excel him in their respective departments. From this class of half educated youths—youths of general acquirements but without trade, profession, or special business—come that army of restless disappointed men, who find life a failure and vote it a bore. As an illustration, I may mention the case of Mr. Brassey, the railway contractor, who died lately. His estate was proved in probate to be worth £6,000,000 sterling, whilst that of a great author and scholar who had been writing all his life was only £800. A public dinner was given by a railway company to Mr. Brassey, as a mark of regard for his valuable services, and he was highly complimented. He was expected to speak, but all he said was:—Gentlemen, although I am unable to make a speech I can make a railroad.

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I have always thought that as they are called "free schools," that rich and poor should enjoy the same advantages, and that first class teachers should be capable of instructing in Latin and Greek, in addition to what is now required by law, in order that the children of poor and needy parents, might have the same chance as the rich to obtain the highest honors, without being compelled to leave their native place and go to an Academy, when they would incur the expense of high board and other acquirements they could never enjoy. The natives of Scotland have always (in whatever part of the world they are found) been proverbially spoken of as intelligent and educated persons. This may account for their general success in any business they engage in, and the achievements of the Prussians in the late war is mainly attributed to their thorough instruction, intelligence, and general knowledge. It is said that only two per cent. of their immense army, 1,000,000 men, were unable to read or write. By means of the parish schools of Scotland the children of poor men could always obtain the element of a classical education at five shillings per quarter, and many of the most notable men in the learned professions have risen from the Scottish peasantry. The Prussians have always been famed for their good system of education, and even the *Turks* now by their educational laws, enact compulsory attendance at their schools, by fines and imprisonment,—The "Heathen Chinee" enforce the education of their offspring by rigid decrees. 400,000,000 must require a legion of houses and teachers. Such a law as this is required in Nova Scotia, as parents are too indifferent and negligent in this respect. A great deal of time is lost and county money also, and regular studies interrupted, being a detriment to the children and causing much additional trouble to the teacher. There is another impediment I may mention.

Most of the youngsters who now engage in teaching make it only a stepping-stone to something they imagine better. They pass an examination before the board, get a 3rd or 2nd class ticket, begin on a small salary, which they have to enable them to go to an academy to advance themselves and prepare for a higher class. The first term they have no experience in teaching and cannot do much. When they get 2nd class they gain more salary and may do a little better, and when No. 1 get a larger and become more ambitious to follow a learned profession and get careless about teaching and go through with as little trouble as possible, and their souls are not engaged in their work but looking forward to something they may think more profitable and honorable. Teaching, to be done well and faithfully, should be an occupation for life, be properly rewarded and considered an honorable and remunerative employment. All the teachers we have had in Wallace, under the new system, have tried to become ministers, lawyers or doctors. In some churches they are taken on trial and begin preaching without half an education or experience.—Some of these in attempting to display their imagined powers of Rhetoric, imitate the rhapsodical enthusiasm of John Bunyan, as manifested in his "sigh from Hell." How different in spirit and effect from the sermon of the "Great Teacher," on the mount of Olives. A doctor's diploma is obtained in the United States for a small fee and a very short time of study or practical knowledge; and the lawyers are now trying to curtail their time of apprenticeship and study. All the world are in a hurry to grow rich. How many attain their desire? Some are ambitious of becoming legislators, senators, premiers, and governors. The thirst for money has induced some teachers to be guilty of dishonorable acts in making their agreements with trustees for teaching. I am prepared to prove this (*in propria persona*) two cases before the Board of Education or Council of Public Instruction, and challenge them to confront me.

I have been thinking where such schools can now be found as the "Old Halifax Grammar School," Principal, the Rev. George Wright; the "National," taught by Abel Gore, or the "Royal Academy" (Lancastrian System), by Walter Bromley. They were always crowded, also schools taught by the Revs. James Furguson, Croskill, Addison & Knight, and Thomas Davis. The Halifax Grammar School was attended by sons of the old and respectable inhabitants of Halifax, and turned out scholars who became governors, generals, admirals, judges, lawyers, ministers, doctors, merchants, and members of many other honorable occupations.—I could give the names of men who are now living. The teachers at that time made it a life business, and by study, practice and experience, gained the esteem and good will of their employers, and the fear, veneration and good will of their scholars. There is a great lack of discipline in some of the schools of the present day. Many of the pupils entertain democratic principles, and proclaim "*vox discipuli*," and disregard "*vox magistri*," and study rowdyism instead of the acquisition of useful knowledge.

There have been great discussions about having the Bible as a text-book, and the use of catechisms in schools.—In my day we always had repetitions on Friday and Bible exercises and church of England Catechism on Saturdays, and then a half-holiday. I think it would be as well to let educators teach metaphysics and morality, and ministers and parents teach religion from the pulpit, the Sunday school and by family worship. There might then be no disturbance about denominational or separate schools, and no jealousy, and people might live as christians should, doing good one to another. After being sometime at the Halifax Grammar School boys were generally sent, by those who could afford it, to King's College Academy, Winsor, Rev. Wm. King, Senr., Principal, and when competent entered college as students. I think the charge at Halifax Grammar School was only ten shillings

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per quarter, at the Academy Winsor, £4 per annum, tuition. I boarded with about forty other boys, at old Capt. Inglis', opposite the College gate; the charge was £40 per annum. We all attended the Church of England. The boys were principally from Halifax, some from St. John, N. B., P. E. I., and other parts. Many went from Halifax Grammar School to Pietou Academy, the Rev. Dr. McCulloch, Principal.

I was sorry to observe by the papers, not long since, that the civic authorities had sold the Halifax Grammar School building and land to be occupied hereafter for some less worthy object,—a theatre or a rum and cigar saloon. I thought it should have been held in reverence as a seat of learning that had produced so many eminent men and in memory of the learned and worthy teachers, who had been the means of imparting so much knowledge. An Academy might have been erected to last another hundred years. The old German Church in Brunswick Street is still preserved and used as a school-house. The Governor, George Earl of Dalhousie, Attorney-General Blowers, Judges Stewart and Wilkins, were trustees of the old school, and used to present us with prizes at the examinations; I had the honor and pleasure of receiving several.

I was engaged in 1861 for eight months, at Halifax, in assisting to compile the Census of the Province, taken at that time. Whilst there I frequently stopped in to look at the old School room of the Halifax Grammar School, (which remained *instat quo*) as I left it fifty years before;—the sight caused reminiscence of my old school-fellows and the serious reflection that they had been scattered around the world, in search of a living, and how many had departed from this life, and could not enjoy the privilege then allowed me.

We had, during years past, some very good schools in Wallace taught by the Rev. Mr. McKinnie, Messrs. Bell & Donald McKay (they were from Scotland) also, by Mr. Henry Oldright, I think from the Spanish West Indies; he taught Latin, Greek, French, and Spanish. I think he is now Interpreter for the Supreme Court at the Metropolis. Mr. McKay is now one of our prominent merchants. These Schools produced some very smart Scholars. Mr. McKay had a happy knack of teaching writing, he always set the text in a plain round hand and his scholars were all good writers. There was none of the humbug of the now popular "Staples" method. The plainer writing is the more beautiful for book-keeping or letter writing.

I think it would be well now, in Academies, to teach less Latin and Greek and attend to the living languages, German and French, as it is likely that Germany will henceforth be in the ascendant and one of the prominent nations, and Bismarck, with his manifest astuteness, will establish commercial treaties favorable for all other nations, to turn the tide of trade to Germany, for her productions, in order to rival France and increase the wealth of his own country, to enable her in time of peace again to prepare for war. Perhaps there may be a profitable interchange of some of the productions of the Dominion of Canada with both Germany and France, and the acquisition of their languages might prove of inestimable benefit to merchants and others who might become interested or engaged in such enterprises.

There is another subject, perhaps, worthy of consideration. Many of the young teachers now employed, after receiving their Certificates, return to the same school section and school-house as "master," that they recently left as pupil. One of our old copies in school was, "Too much familiarity breeds contempt." The boys who were in the same class with him think they know as much and are as smart, and perhaps more so, in somethings than he is, and do not like him as "boss." Insubordination ensues, and there is poor discipline. It would be better always to have a stranger, if competent, to do his duty.

It is customary now to examine the scholars whilst at their desks.

Some hold up their hands as if prepared to answer; others take no notice and remain "as they were," as they say in militia drill, and pass unnoticed. It would be better to have each class in the immediate presence of the teacher, and examine individually. There is too much prompting, which destroys self reliance. The Master asks questions and answers them himself. They study too much in school. Lessons should be given daily to study for next day's exercise. There is no study at home now.

There are, no doubt, many teachers who do their duties faithfully and sincerely, and show great ability in teaching and discipline, but it is not generally observed. There are always some diseased sheep in a flock. Solomon said there were none perfect in his day, and perhaps men are no better now, especially politicians.

I think it bad policy to alter, or add new school books so often, as it puts many people with small means to inconvenience, and in some cases they cannot procure them for the children, which breaks up the established classes, and gives additional work to the teacher. The prices should be reduced, if possible, instead of being increased. I think it was also a mistake to withhold the superior grant formerly offered to first class teachers, as it causes less emulation and success and has resulted in a diminish of that class as an additional amcunt to the prescribed salary was a great incitement to competition.

We have at present, in the Wallace school, a lady engaged in teaching the pupils of the primary department, as far as the 4th book. She is now in her fourth year of employment, and has given general satisfaction to the trustees and parents of her scholars by her capabilities, industry and attention to their children's morals and physical comfort and by marked improvement, in their studies, and has also gained the highest esteem and approbation of the Inspectors by her method of instruction. She was engaged in teaching many years before the new school act was established.

It is said that through the United States, that three-fourths of the teachers are females; the same is also said of telegraph operators. They are found to be diligent, faithful, punctual, very attentive to their duties, and contented with their situation in life, which is manifested by their long continuance in one employment. They are also very frugal and satisfied with smaller recompence. This cannot be said of some of the masculine gender. There are now 72 postmistresses in the United States, who receive salaries of \$1,000 and upward. These offices are reported at Washington to be well managed.

Now, Mr. Editor, as I am aware that you are not fond of long spun yarns, and have fixed a limit for insertion, in your instructive *Gazette*, I had better conclude with "*quantum sufficit*."

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APPENDIX.

During a recent visit to Amherst, I was induced to take a trip in the rail cars to Sackville. I strolled, during my stay there, till return of the cars, through the Village, and passed a fine looking house and grounds, which, I was told, belonged to Christopher Milner, Esquire, Lawyer. The name seemed familiar to me and I walked into the office and introduced myself to Mr. Milner, as a school-fellow about fifty-two years ago. I enquired if his father was alive: he told me he was. As I was one of his pupils at the Academy,—Smith's Hill, Windsor, after the death of Rev. Wm. King, Senr.,—I had a great desire to see him. Mr. Milner kindly invited me to the house. We found the old gentleman taking a nap, on a couch:—I recollect his appearance at the time he was my teacher. He now appeared to be a portly, healthly, man, with florid complexion. He is in his eighty-sixth year and looks as if he would be a centenarian. His son told me he had an attack of sickness, a few years since, that had slightly affected his intellect. After a while the old gentleman awoke: I told him I was the chap he thrashed over fifty years ago, and had now called to thank him. He said, he could not believe it. Mr. C. Milner, Jr., then took me to the printing office of his son, Mr. Wm. C. Milner, who is proprietor and printer of the *Chignecto Post*, and introduced me as an old friend. Mr. Wm. C. Milner presented me with a file of his papers and appointed me agent, to receive subscriptions, at Wallace. I can recommend it to the intellectual people of Wallace and vicinity, as an instructive, entertaining and cheap weekly, being only a dollar, (in advance) per year; and I will be pleased to receive subscriptions, at my office, opposite the Wesleyan Chapel, Wallace Harbor.

T. M. M.

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